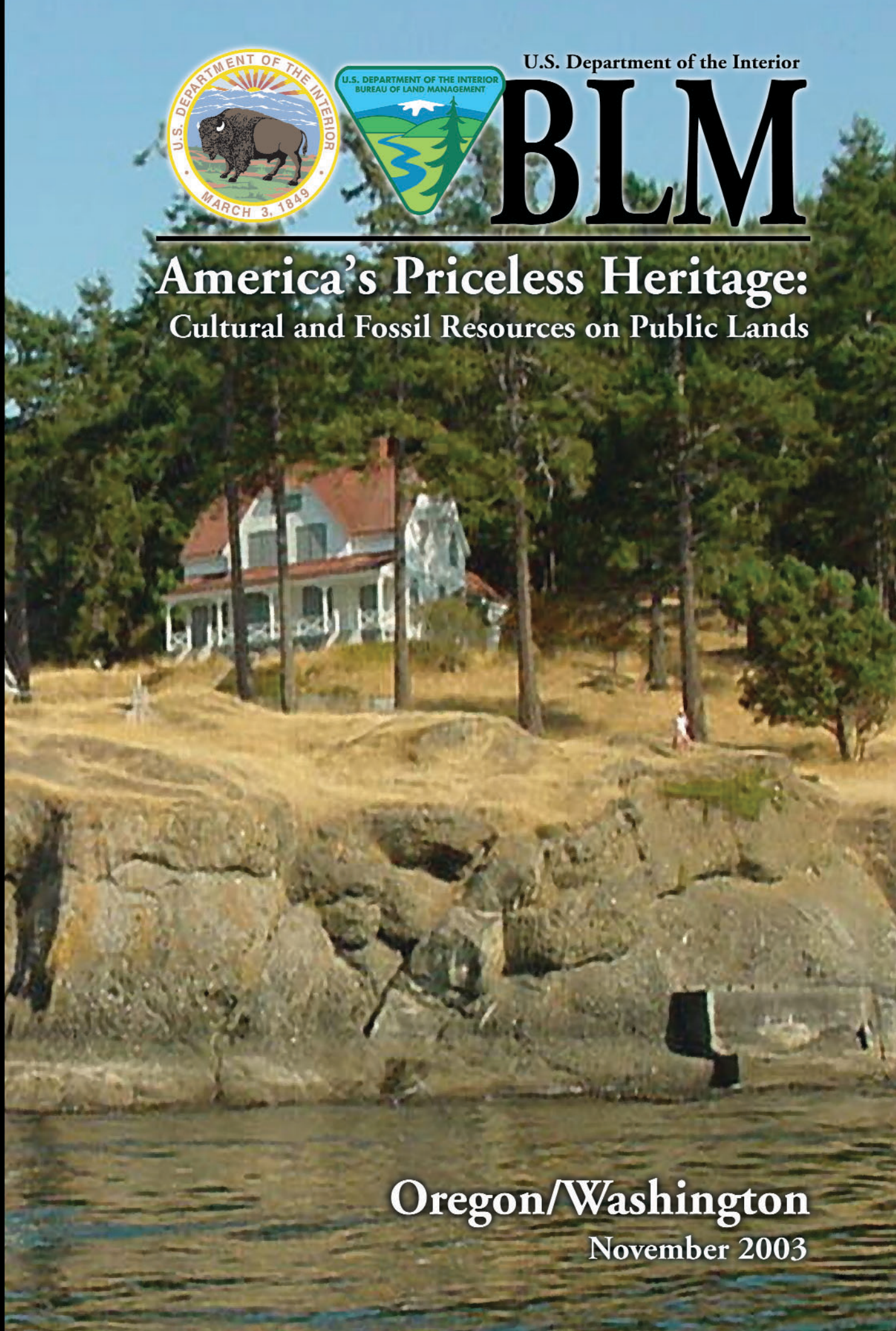
Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of the Interior

BLM

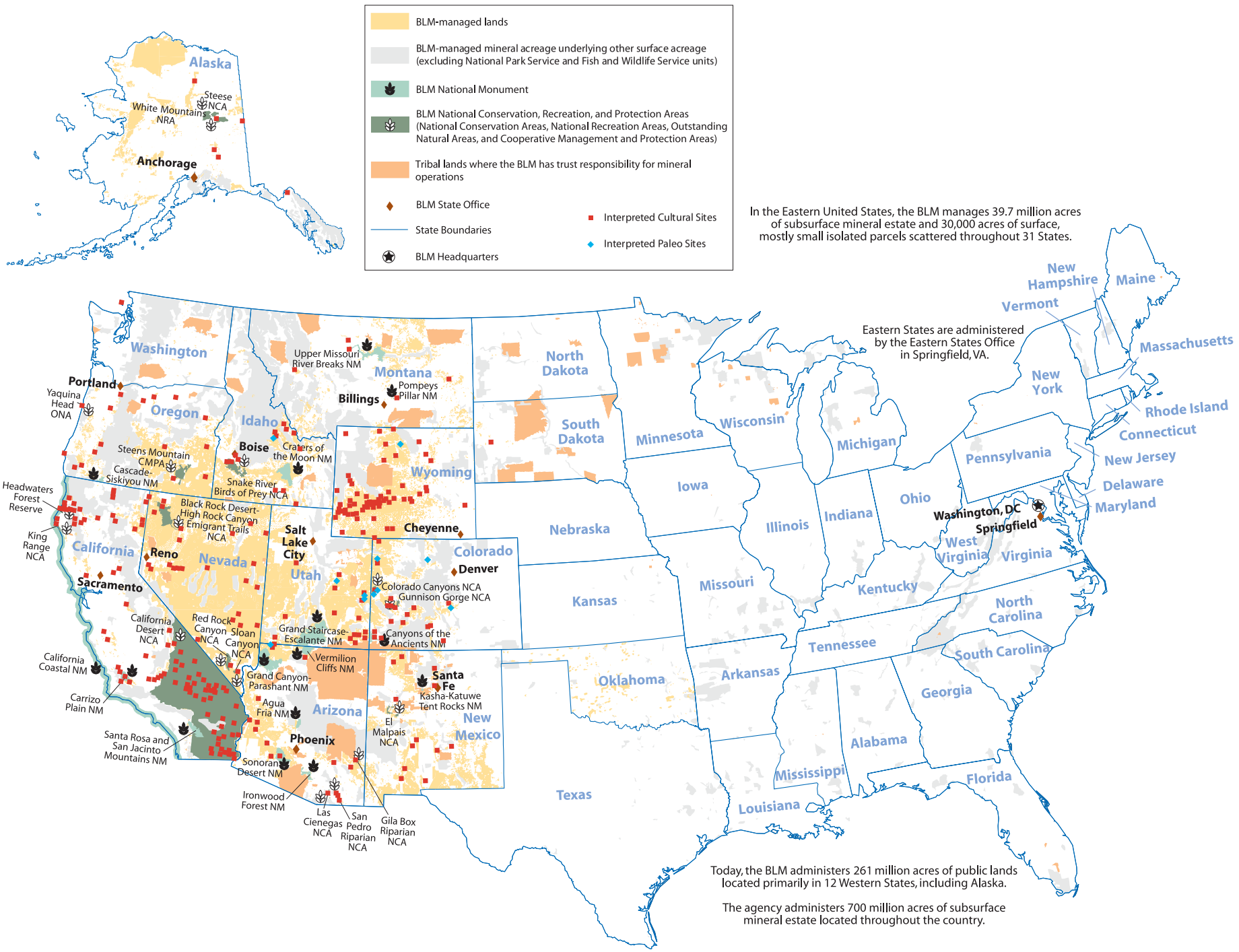
America's Priceless Heritage:

Cultural and Fossil Resources on Public Lands



Oregon/Washington

November 2003


BLM-managed lands
BLM-managed mineral acreage underlying other surface acreage (excluding National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service units)
BLM National Monument
BLM National Conservation, Recreation, and Protection Areas (National Conservation Areas, National Recreation Areas, Outstanding Natural Areas, and Cooperative Management and Protection Areas)
Tribal lands where the BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations
BLM State Office
State Boundaries
BLM Headquarters
Interpreted Cultural Sites
Interpreted Paleo Sites
In the Eastern United States, the BLM manages 39.7 million acres of subsurface mineral estate and 30,000 acres of surface, mostly small isolated parcels scattered throughout 31 States.
Eastern States are administered by the Eastern States Office in Springfield, VA.
Today, the BLM administers 261 million acres of public lands located primarily in 12 Western States, including Alaska.
The agency administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate located throughout the country.
Alaska
Steese NCA
White Mountains NRA
Anchorage
Washington
Portland
Yaquina Head ONA
Oregon
Steens Mountain CMPA
Cascade-Siskiyou NM
Headwaters Forest Reserve
King Range NCA
California
Reno
Nevada
Sacramento
California Coastal NM
Carrizo Plain NM
California Desert NCA
Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA
Red Rock Canyon NCA
Sloan Canyon NCA
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains NM
Idaho
Boise
Craters of the Moon NM
Snake River Birds of Prey NCA
Salt Lake City
Utah
Grand Staircase-Escalante NM
Vermilion Cliffs NM
Grand Canyon-Parashant NM
Agua Fria NM
Arizona
Phoenix
Sonoran Desert NM
Ironwood Forest NM
Las Cienegas NCA
San Pedro Riparian NCA
Gila Box Riparian NCA
Upper Missouri River Breaks NM
Montana
Billings
Pompeys Pillar NM
Wyoming
Cheyenne
Colorado
Denver
Colorado Canyons NCA
Gunnison Gorge NCA
Canyons of the Ancients NM
Santa Fe
Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks NM
El Malpais NCA
New Mexico
North Dakota
South Dakota
Nebraska
Kansas
Oklahoma
Texas
Minnesota
Iowa
Missouri
Arkansas
Louisiana
Wisconsin
Illinois
Michigan
Indiana
Ohio
Kentucky
Tennessee
Mississippi
Alabama
Georgia
Florida
South Carolina
North Carolina
Virginia
West Virginia
Pennsylvania
New York
Maryland
Delaware
New Jersey
Connecticut
Rhode Island
Massachusetts
Vermont
New Hampshire
Maine
Washington, DC
Springfield

America's Priceless Heritage:

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Cover photo: The Turn Point Light Station in the San Juan Islands of northwest Washington State was constructed in the 1890s in late Victorian/Queen Anne style. The facility, including the lighthouse, keepers' quarters, barn, and other out-buildings and structures, served as a navigational aid station on Haro Strait between Vancouver Island and the San Juan Islands. The facility was automated in the 1970s and, with the exception of the lighthouse and oil house, reverted to the BLM in 1991. The historic property, with its majestic views of Puget Sound and Vancouver Island, is a popular tourist destination.

For more information about BLM's Cultural Heritage Program, please contact:
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Preface:
An Invitation to the Reader

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing 261 million acres of public land—about one-eighth of the United States. Most of these lands are in the Western United States, including Alaska, and they include extensive grasslands, forests, high mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts. BLM also manages about 700 million acres of subsurface mineral resources, as well as numerous other resources, such as timber, forage, wild horse and burro populations, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness areas, and archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites.

BLM administers the public lands within the framework of numerous laws, the most comprehensive of which is the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). FLPMA directs BLM to follow the principle of "multiple use," which means managing the public lands and their various resource values "so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people." This multiple use mission requires BLM to address quality of life issues, including providing clean air and water; providing recreational opportunities; protecting wildlife; and safeguarding cultural and fossil resources; as well as providing for a sound economy through the production of energy, food, and fiber and by sustaining local communities and their heritage.

Given the scope of its multiple use mission, BLM affects more Americans on a daily basis than any other land management agency. The Bureau constantly faces the challenge of ensuring a balance of land uses among perspectives that are occasionally, if not often, competing. BLM recognizes that people who live near the public lands have the most direct connection and knowledge of them, as well as a commitment to their stewardship. At the same time, the Bureau maintains a national focus because these lands belong to all Americans, whose appreciation of them continues to increase.

BLM's central challenge is to *balance the demands of growth and the imperative for conservation*. America is entering into a new era of conservation to achieve a healthier environment and a more secure economy—what Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton

calls the "new environmentalism." Secretary Norton sums this new environmentalism up in a visionary approach she calls the "four Cs"—using communication, cooperation, and consultation, all in the service of conservation. At the heart of the four Cs is the Secretary's belief that for conservation to be successful, BLM must involve the people who live on, work on, and love the land.

The Bureau's ability to partner with public land users; local residents; nonprofit groups; universities; "friends of" organizations; and State, local, and tribal governments fosters a wide and diverse support network. This network is essential not only because the agency has limited staff and budget resources, but because there is a wide variety of stakeholders who are concerned about public land management. The Bureau has been working cooperatively with partners and volunteers for decades and that work has yielded outstanding results towards attaining common goals and values.

Secretary Norton's approach to conservation is especially relevant to the management of cultural and fossil resources on public lands. These resources are a constant source of fascination for visitors. People look to these resources for recreational opportunities…for fulfilling their curiosity about the recent and remote past…for contemplating their origins…for preserving and continuing their cultures…for finding peace and quiet. The Secretary's approach to managing these resources was furthered on March 3, 2003, when President Bush signed a new Executive Order, which directs Federal agencies to advance the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of historic properties, particularly by seeking public–private partnerships to promote the use of such properties as a stimulus to local economic development. The Executive Order is an important component in a new White House initiative called *Preserve America*, which was announced on March 3, 2003 by First Lady Laura Bush. The *Preserve America* program will serve as a focal point for the support of the preservation, use, and enjoyment of America's historic places.

The Bureau is proud of its mission and understands why it is crucial to the Nation's future. The Bureau's vision is to live up to this ambitious mission and thereby meet the needs of the lands and our people. In order to achieve this goal, the Bureau must seek new ways of managing that include innovative partnerships and, especially, a community-based focus that

involves citizen stakeholders and governmental partners who care about the public lands and the cultural and fossil resources found on them. This document is an invitation to you—the public BLM serves—to continue your ongoing dialogue with us about the health and future of the Nation's cultural and natural legacy. Tell us what is important to you, what you care most about, what you want saved, and how BLM can work collaboratively to preserve our priceless legacy.

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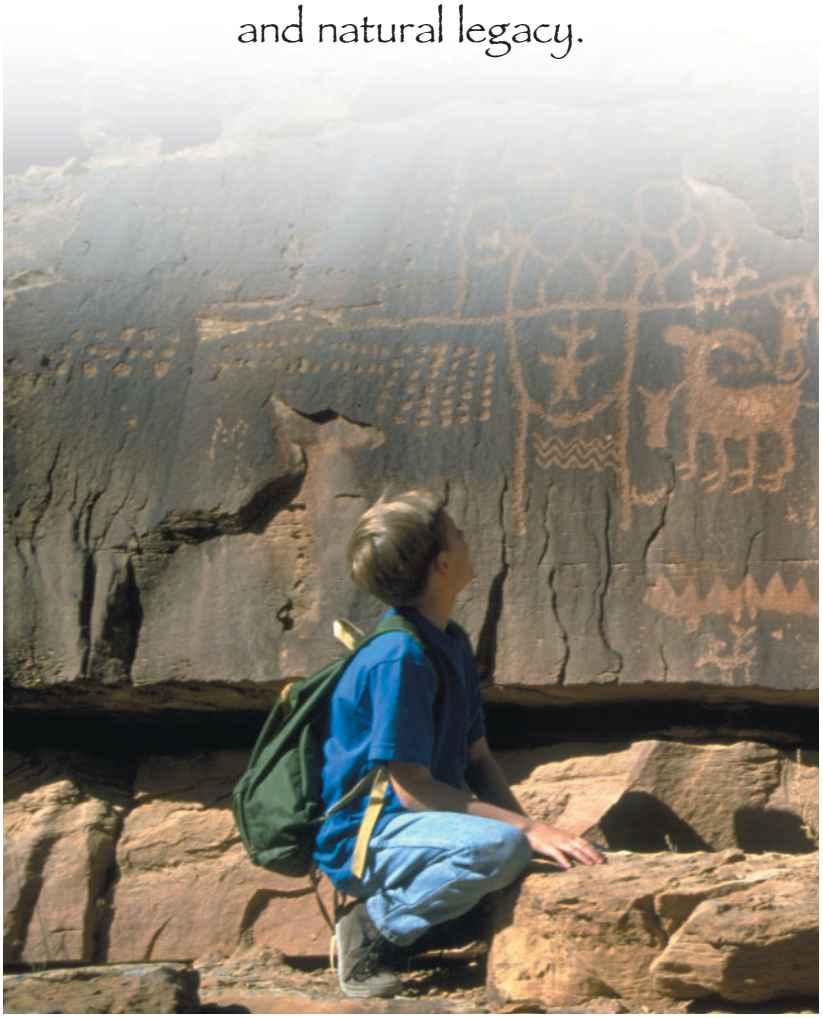
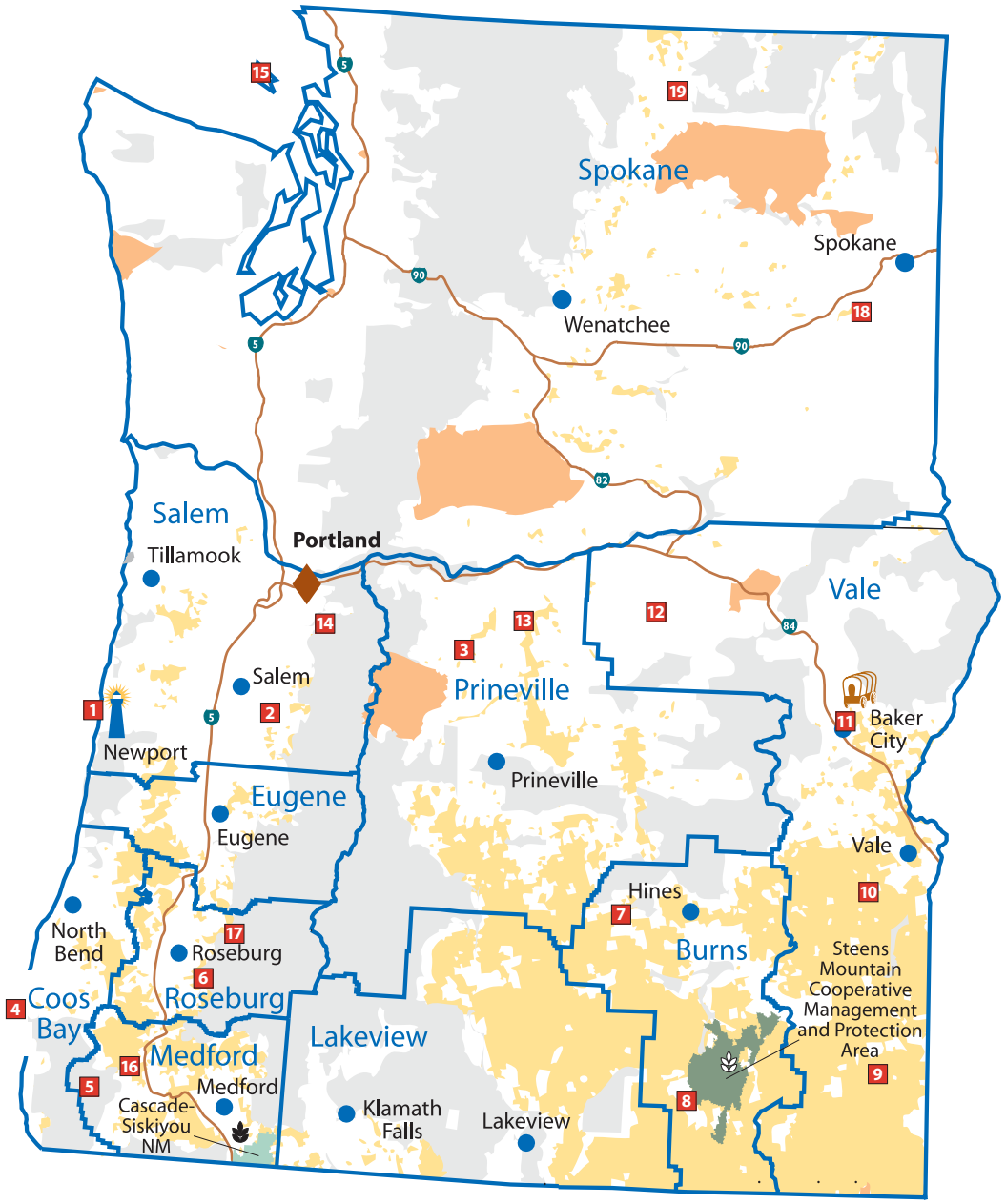


OREGON/ WASHINGTON



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Tribal lands where the BLM has trust responsibility for mineral operations

BLM State Office

BLM Field Offices

BLM Field Stations

BLM Field Office Boundaries

Major Highways

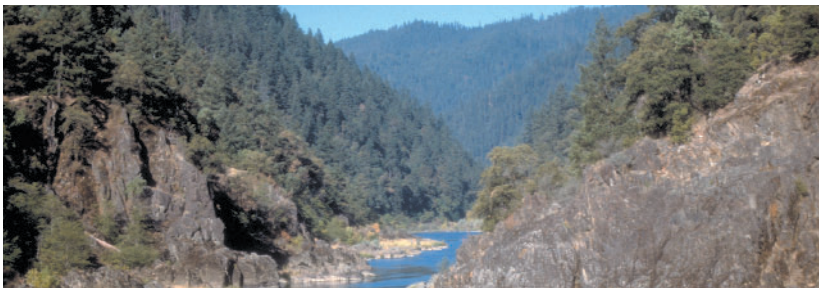
National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Interpretive Center

Interpreted Cultural Sites

1. Yaquina Head Lighthouse
2. Pechuck Lookout
3. Macks Canyon
4. Cape Blanco Lighthouse
5. Rogue River Ranch
6. China Ditch
7. Gap Ranch
8. Riddle Brothers Ranch
9. Birch Creek Ranch
10. Keeney Pass *
11. National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
12. Echo Meadows *
13. Four-Mile Canyon *
14. Wildwood *
15. Turn Point Lighthouse
16. Rand
17. Susan Creek Mounds
18. Folsom Farm
19. McLoughlin Canyon

* Interpreted Oregon Trail Segments



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Statistical Overview

Acres of public land	16.5 million acres
Acres inventoried for cultural properties (FY 2002)	58,148 acres
Acres inventoried for cultural resources (to date)	1,400,034 acres
Cultural properties recorded (FY 2002)	471 properties
Cultural properties recorded (to date)	11,224 properties
Cultural Resource Use Permits in effect (FY 2002)	12 permits
National Register of Historic Places listings (to date)	20 listings
National Register of Historic Places contributing properties	82 properties
Section 106 class III undertakings (FY 2002)	289 undertakings
Section 106 data recovery, projects (FY 2002)	7 projects
Section 106 data recovery, properties (FY 2002)	19 properties
Interpreted places	17 places

Cultural Resources

1. Program Summary

Because native populations of the Pacific Northwest did not substantially depart from basic hunting and gathering economic patterns for more than 12,000 years, cultural resources found on public lands provide a unique avenue for the study of long-term social stability in the face of environmental change and external influences. The bounty of natural resources along coastal areas

…cultural resources found on public lands provide a unique avenue for the study of long-term social stability in the face of environmental change and external influences.

Elk and falcon pictographs in the Burns District in southeast Oregon.

and rivers made the more labor-intensive economies based on agriculture unnecessary. In other areas, stark high-elevation, semiarid desert conditions made more productive economic alternatives unavailable. Few other places in the world offer this degree of economic stability.

The BLM manages 16.5 million acres of public lands in the States of Oregon and Washington. These lands include a remarkable diversity of climates and landforms. Basic physiographic provinces include high desert basins of the Great Basin, lava plains of the Columbia River Plateau, forested mountains of the Cascade Mountains and Coast Range, and the Pacific Ocean coastline. Consequently, the history of human adaptations and resource use is diverse and plentiful, contributing to a broad range of physical remains and culturally influenced landscapes. Correspondingly, sites managed and protected by the BLM in Oregon and Washington are varied geographically, representing over 10,000 years of human use and settlement of the Northwest landscape.

More than 1.4 million acres of public lands in Oregon and Washington have been inventoried for cultural resources and over 11,200 cultural resource sites recorded. The inventory and recordation program has resulted in 20 sites and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Cultural or historic values associated with 17 designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern include five segments of the Oregon National Historic Trail, the Snake River Archaeological District, the Sterling Mine Ditch in southwestern Oregon, the Biscuitroot cultural area in eastern Oregon, the Spanish Gulch Mining District in central Oregon, and the Yakima River Canyon in central Washington. The 52,000-acre Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument was established in 2000 and contains a rich record of cultural resources.

2. State Cultural History

Archaeological evidence richly documents the presence of people in Oregon and Washington for over 10,000 years. Hunters following the big game of the Pleistocene camped along the large, inland lakes that occupied much of eastern Oregon. Archaeological finds from such campsites as Fort Rock cave, dated at 12,500 years ago, document this early history. More commonly, scattered Clovis points—uniquely fluted Paleo-Indian spear points—at such locations as the Dietz site, attest to the presence of these early hunters.

Archaeological evidence richly documents the presence of people in Oregon and Washington for over 10,000 years.

The Dietz site is a 10,000- to 12,000-year-old Paleo-Indian site located on the shores of an ancient lake in the Lakeview District of south-central Oregon.

By 6000 B.C., environmental changes associated with the ending of the Ice Ages and the beginning of the Holocene brought about the development of the Archaic tradition in the Pacific Northwest. This hunting-gathering way of life persisted throughout Oregon and Washington until Europeans came to the continent a few hundred years ago, leaving a unique record of such pronounced economic stability.

Through this long, 8,000-year period, significant environmental differences fostered different customs within the region. In the West, and especially along the Columbia River, the rich, temperate environment fostered populous, sedentary villages based in large part on fish and other abundant and predictable resources from the rivers and the sea. This subsistence base extended upstream along the Columbia River and its tributaries, on the high and dry Columbia Plateau. These prolific fisheries drew tribes from many areas, allowing local tribes to control major centers for regional trade. People living in the arid southeast part of Oregon roamed across great distances in an annual round to collect and store foods and materials necessary for survival.

European exploreres came in ships along the coast, bringing devastating diseases to the Native population by the late 18th century. Lewis and Clark reached the Columbia River, near the present city of Portland, in 1805. Fur traders followed, and brought with them a struggle among European countries for control over the Pacific Northwest.

In 1846, the region became an American territory, and settlement in the temperate and fertile Willamette Valley of northwest Oregon was well underway. Many pioneers braved the hazards of the Oregon Trail for the promise of wealth in the new land. In the early 1850s, the discovery of gold in southwestern Oregon, as well as the passage of the Oregon Donation Land Claim Act, brought a new flood of immigrants. Gold discoveries in eastern Oregon and Washington by the 1860s led to immigration and settlement in those regions. Bloody conflicts ensued and the push to open lands to settlement resulted in the placement of surviving Native peoples on reservations. An estimated precontact population of over 180,000 was reduced to less than 40,000, undermining indigenous economies.

Throughout the 19th century, a town-and-country way of life, based on farming, mining, timber, and fishing in the west and ranching in the east, characterized the Northwest. The Northern

Throughout the 19th century, a town-and-country way of life, based on farming, mining, timber, and fishing in the west and ranching in the east, characterized the Northwest.

Pictographs near recreation areas are threatened and have been damaged by vandalism, illegal dumping, and unauthorized occupation.

The IXL Ranch, a turn-of-the-century homestead in the high desert country of the Lakeview District in south-central Oregon.

Pacific Railway and the Great Northern Railway, completed in the last quarter of the 19th century, made westward migration cheaper, easier, and faster. However, because of national economic problems in the 1890s, major new markets for Northwest goods were not realized until after the turn of the century.

Just as it had been since the financing of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Federal Government continued to be a major player in the region's development in the 20th century. By the middle of the century, over half of the land in Oregon was held by the Federal Government and managed by various agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management. During the Depression era, New Deal policies brought the Civilian Conservation Corps and conservation policies—as well as the development of infrastructure, including Grand Coulee Dam—to these lands. The government was instrumental as well in industrial and agricultural development in the region, funding major dams for inexpensive power and, during World War II, defense industries. Today national policies and politics continue to have significant effects in the State.

3. Cultural Resources At Risk

- Looting and vandalism threaten numerous sites. Pictographs near recreation areas are threatened and have been damaged by vandalism, illegal dumping, and unauthorized occupation. In the Burns District, the Guano Slough site in Cotton Valley illustrates the damage that can result from illegal looting. Vandalism and arson threaten historic structures and archaeological sites across the region.

- Erosion threatens many sites such as coastal shell middens like the Yaquina Head Village site, prehistoric campsites, burials, and historic period sites, including numerous standing structures. Erosion is particularly damaging along island perimeters and the Pacific coast due to seasonal storms and to vegetation loss in popular recreation areas, as well as along streams, arroyos, and roadbeds in other parts of the State.

- The increasing population and recreational use of public lands threaten many sites. Use in urban interface areas in central Oregon, such as Redmond Cave, is rapidly increasing. Off-highway vehicle use and rock hounding

threaten numerous archaeological and cultural sites, and recreation areas developed on or near archaeological sites hasten the destruction of the sites through increased erosion or excavation by placement of fire rings, picnic tables, and trails.

- Numerous mining, farming, and homestead structures are threatened by ongoing deterioration, unauthorized occupancy, vandalism, and wildfire. Many other structures and abandoned mine features and landscapes are threatened by public safety issues, including reclamation and mitigation measures and occupancy concerns.

- Numerous sites remain undocumented and unevaluated due to time and budgetary constraints. Inventories are conducted in high-use areas, but public use and proposed development outpace inventories, evaluation, and cultural resource management plans. Furthermore, the cost of active protection and stabilization, especially for standing structures or popular archaeological sites, is high. The Deschutes and John Day National Wild and Scenic River corridors, for example, have many sites from the last 10,000 years that possess outstandingly remarkable values. However, systematic surveys and site documentation and evaluation have not been completed due to fiscal restraints. Each year the integrity of those undocumented sites, and by extension their significance, is compromised.

- Benign neglect of historic structures is another key issue in the Northwest. Not all of the known historic structures, such as the Shirk Ranch, have been fully inventoried, had their significance determined, and had written condition assessments and restoration plans developed. Even for those with plans, budgetary limitations sometimes keep BLM from completing approved restoration.

- A unique rock art site in southwestern Oregon is vulnerable to requirements by the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, for benching and safe operations of an adjoining mine.

An archaeological dig by the Washington State University field school at the Skull Creek Dunes site in the Burns District of southeastern Oregon.

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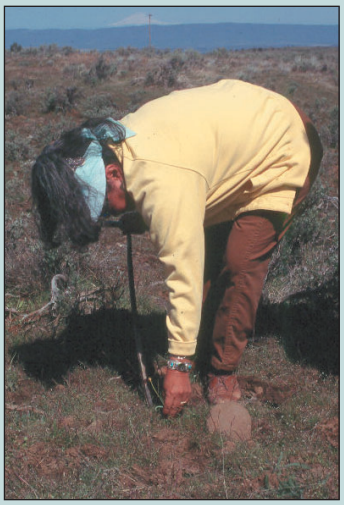

An Oregon tribal member gathers roots on public lands in the Burns District of central Oregon.

Coordination with a number of Indian tribes on heritage preservation issues is a key facet of the cultural resource management program in the Pacific Northwest.

4. Major Accomplishments

- Developed the Oregon Archaeology project, distributing the *Exploring Oregon's Past* curriculum guide to teachers statewide through teacher in-service training.
- Restored historic structures such as Turn Point Light Station, Riddle Brothers Historic Ranch, the Trout Creek school house, and the Bulkeley cabin.
- Participated, with the States of Oregon and Washington, in annual public archaeology celebration events.
- Developed the Oregon and Washington cultural program Web site.
- Developed cultural resource themed exhibits for the BLM Oregon State Fair cabin and other traveling exhibits in cooperation with such partners as the High Desert Museum of central Oregon and the Oregon Historical Society.
- Developed interpretive brochures for the Riddle Brothers Ranch National Register District and Gap Ranch Civilian Conservation Corps Camp.
- Continued restoration of an 1888 cabin located on the Canyon City/Fort Harney Military Wagon Road.

5. Ethnic, Tribal, and Other Groups to Whom BLM Cultural Resources Are Important

Coordination with a number of Indian tribes on heritage preservation issues is a key facet of the cultural resource management program in the Pacific Northwest. There are 38 federally recognized tribes in Oregon and Washington. Large reservations in proximity to public lands are held by the Colville, Spokane, Yakama, Umatilla, and Warm Springs Tribes. Many retain off-reservation treaty rights to public lands and public resources, serving to maintain a long-term link to the lands. The reserved rights and economic growth experienced since the 1980s have placed the tribes in a key position to influence public land issues.

The ongoing link to public lands involves concerns over how cultural sites, traditionally used places, and burials are treated.

Of particular importance to Oregon and Washington tribes is the treatment of human remains and funerary objects of their ancestors. In the early 1990s, BLM completed its inventory of Native American human remains and funerary objects in repositories and published a Notice of Inventory Completion in the Federal Register. All those human remains and funerary objects in repository collections for which cultural affiliation with present day tribes could be ascertained were repatriated.

Asian populations also have a long history in the Pacific Northwest, which is reflected in cultural resources identified on public lands. These cultural resource sites are commonly associated with historic mining and railroad construction. It is expected that a closer working relationship with Asian American groups in the Northwest will develop in the future.

Several socioeconomic traditions have grown in the Pacific Northwest following U.S. acquisition of the region. Mining first led to the settlement of southwest Oregon in the early 1850s and northeast Washington and Oregon by the 1860s. Farming and ranching operations followed. The expanding timber industry in the 19th century led to increased settlement and industry in Seattle's Puget Sound area. Each of these industries has established longstanding associations with public lands.

6. Existing Partnerships

- Two subregional interagency long-term workgroups—the Central Oregon Heritage Group (COHG) and the Western Zonal Group—as a basis for local data sharing, design of inventory strategies, and development of historic context statements.

- The University of Nevada, Reno, in Harney Basin and Alkali Basin for the First Americans cost-share project, which focused on material remains older than 8,000 years.

- The University of Oregon, Washington State University, Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Southern Oregon University, and Portland State University, through ongoing cost-share projects, for a wide variety of field and research projects, several of which include tribal participation.

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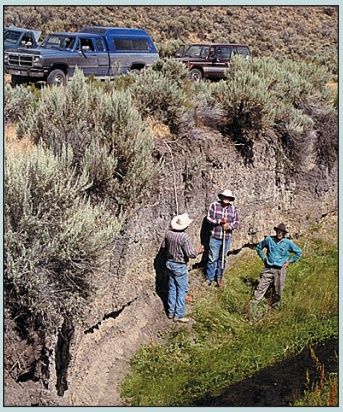


Ancient ash beds representing various prehistoric eruptions, including that of Mt. Mazama, which created Crater Lake 7,000 years ago, are readily visible in deep exposures of Catlow Valley in the Burns District of eastern Oregon.

The Shirk Ranch is an excellent example of turn-of-the-century livestock operations in the high desert region in the Lakeview District of south-central Oregon.

Tourism plays a vital role in creating new job opportunities and strengthening local and regional economies.

- Tribes, including the Klamath Tribes, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe, and the Coquille Tribe, for site protection and monitoring projects.
- The Chemawa Indian School, through a cooperative agreement, to conduct studies on school acreage related to forest and wetlands management and to provide additional teaching expertise to existing school staff.
- The University of Oregon Continuing Education Program to provide ongoing training opportunities for BLM cultural staff.
- The Archaeological Society of Central Oregon for site stewardship, outreach, and education.

7. Economic Benefits

Tourism plays a vital role in creating new job opportunities and strengthening local and regional economies. This area's greatest asset is its clean, pristine, natural environment. Much of the economic impact is generated by visitors recreating, sightseeing, and relaxing in the State's mountains, meadows, rivers, deserts, and oceans. A number of heritage tourism facilities have been developed to enhance the tourist experience, including BLM's National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill near Baker City, Oregon.

BLM interpreted historic sites host many visitors:

- The Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in the Vale District had 73,500 visitors in 2001 and had 1,578,478 visitors from its opening in May 1992 to October 2002.
- Yaquina Head Interpretive Center in the Salem District had 410,000 visitors in 2002.
- Turn Point Light Station, located in the Spokane District on a fairly remote island in the San Juans, had 6,000 visitors in 2000 and 2001.
- Rogue River Ranch in the Medford District had 19,594 visitors in 2002.
- The Rand Civilian Conservation Corps National Register site in the Medford District had 16,536 visitors in 2002.

Paleontological Resources

1. Program Summary

The BLM in Oregon and Washington administers over 16 million surface acres containing world-class fossil resources. In any given year, there are between three and five Paleontological Resource Use Permits active in the State. Researchers from institutions such as the University of Oregon, the University of California–Berkeley, University of Nebraska, University of Florida, and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology conduct their activities in the State to study ecological and evolutionary changes over the past 50 million years. Specimens collected by these institutions are usually taken out of the State to be studied and stored elsewhere.

2. State Paleontological History

Much of the fossil record in Oregon and Washington represents time periods a little later than other States in the interior. For the most part, fossils are Cenozoic in age (40 million years to present). Oregon offers one of the best settings in the world for the study of biotic change over a long period of time on a regional scale. Fossil deposits in eastern Oregon represent a time when primitive mammals began to change and adapt to new environments and show a slow transition into faunas that we recognize today.

3. Paleontological Resources at Risk

There are two designated areas in the State dedicated to the protection of paleontological resources: Logan Butte and Fossil Lake Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. These and other fossil localities are experiencing a number of impacts. Natural forces have the most constant impact on the resource, both positively and negatively. Due to the increase in population growth and the associated use of public lands for development and recreation, many areas, including fossil-bearing outcrops, have become more accessible. Many areas are experiencing vandalism and unauthorized collection of fossils on a recurring basis.

4. Major Accomplishments

- Provided support for the geologic mapping and dating of Logan Butte and Fossil Lake Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

A mammoth tusk found along Bridge Creek in the Prineville District of central Oregon.

Many areas are experiencing vandalism and unauthorized collection of fossils on a recurring basis.

- Established, trained, and funded a part-time statewide paleontology program coordinator position to assist districts in the management of fossil resources.

5. Existing Partnerships

- The National Park Service, through a cooperative management agreement, to co-manage fossil resources on public lands in central and eastern Oregon.

- The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Hancock Field Station, for education and outreach.

6. Economic Benefits

Under a long-term agreement, BLM and the National Park Service have worked together to make the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument one of their primary curatorial and interpretive facilities. Currently, units of this facility draw approximately 18,000 visitors a year. Students and groups from elderhostels are attracted to BLM-administered lands to learn more about geology and paleontology through a partnership with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Hancock Field Station. The community of Fossil is currently allowing visitors to quarry leaf fossils on the high school grounds. This activity demonstrates that interest in fossils may provide economic diversity. Central Oregon is a premier location for rock hounding, drawing about 10,000 visitors annually according to chamber of commerce estimates. Many of the rock types desired are directly or indirectly related to fossil resources, such as petrified wood, leaf fossils, and limb casts, that are found on public lands. Approximately 10,000 visitors a year are attracted to the area surrounding BLM's Fossil Lake Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Discoveries in other Pleistocene localities have attracted local and regional paleontologists, as well as the media.

Approximately 10,000 visitors a year are attracted to the area surrounding BLM's Fossil Lake Area of Critical Environmental Concern.





The Bureau of Land Management Today

Our Vision

To enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the balanced stewardship of America's public lands and resources.


Our Mission

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Our Values

To serve with honesty, integrity, accountability, respect, courage, and commitment to make a difference.

Our Priorities

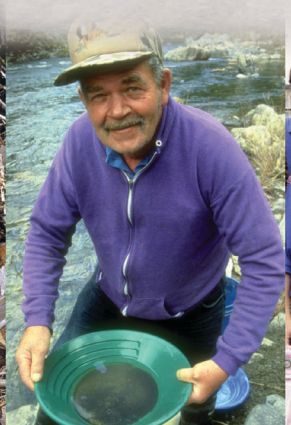
To improve the health and productivity of the land to support the BLM multiple-use mission.

To cultivate community-based conservation, citizen-centered stewardship, and partnership through consultation, cooperation, and communication.

To respect, value, and support our employees, giving them resources and opportunities to succeed.

To pursue excellence in business practices, improve accountability to our stakeholders, and deliver better service to our customers.

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